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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/599,445

11/21/2006

Katsunobu Kitami

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EXAMINER

SAVAGE, MATTHEW O

ART UNIT

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1797

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/599,445	Applicant(s) KITAMI ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew O. Savage	Art Unit 1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita et al.

With respect to claim 1, Morita et al disclose an ultrapure water production plant (see FIG. 2) producing ultrapure water including an ultraviolet oxidation equipment 21 capable of decomposing an organic compound contained in the primary pure water and generating a decomposition product of the organic compound (see lines 19-28 of col. 6 and lines 33-37 of col. 7) and a catalyst mixed tower 29 (see FIG. 9a) located downstream of the ultraviolet oxidation equipment 21 and having catalyst supports each of which has a catalyst carried on a support, the catalyst mixed tower also having anion exchange resins which is capable of absorbing and removing decomposition product of the organic compound (see lines 24-28 of col. 6).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al in view of Kazuki et al.

With respect to claim 2, Morita et al disclose de-mineralizing equipment 22 located downstream of the catalyst mixed tower but fail to specify a membrane degasser located in the downstream of the catalyst mixed tower. Kazuki et al disclose an analogous system that includes a degasser 15 located downstream of a catalyst unit 14 and teaches that such an arrangement removes gases produced by the UV radiation unit and catalyst unit. It would have been obvious to have modified the system of Morita et al so as to have included a degasser as suggested by Kazuki et al in order to remove gases evolved by the UV radiation unit and the catalyst unit.

As to claim 3, Morita et al disclose the demineralization equipment 22 as being an ion exchange resin tower including a mixed bed in which the anion exchange resins and cation exchange resins are mixed (see lines 41-42 of col. 10).

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Morita et al disclose a ratio of the catalyst supports to the anion exchange resins as being between 3% and 20% by weight and 8% and 13% by weight (e.g., .1-10%, see lines 14-17 of col. 7).

Concerning claim 6, Morita et al discloses a palladium catalyst that is capable of decomposing hydrogen peroxide (see lines 61-62 of col. 6).

As to claim 7, Morita et al disclose the catalyst as being selected from palladium (see lines 61-62 of col. 6).

As to claims 8 and 9, Morita et al disclose the support as being an ion exchange resin in the form of an anion exchange resin (see lines 17-21 of col. 7).

Concerning claim 10, Morita et al disclose that the supports can be in any form including granules (see from line 66 of col. 6 to line 1 of col. 7) and discloses anion exchange resins that are typically in the form of beads which are spherical (e.g., the Dowex 550A anion exchange resin mentioned on line 59 of col. 11).

Regarding claim 11, Morita et al disclose anion exchange resins that are strong base anion exchange resins (e.g., Dowex 550A, see line 59 of col. 11).

As to claim 12, Morita disclose a substrate of the anion exchange resins as being selected from styrene origins (e.g., Dowex 550A).

Concerning claim 13, Morita disclose the substrate of the anion exchange resins as having a structure which is selected from a gel type (e.g., Dowex 550A).

Regarding claim 14, Morita et al disclose the catalyst mixed tower as holding the anion exchange resins and the catalyst supports in a mixed state (see lines 45-47 of col. 7).

As to claim 15, Morita et al disclose the catalyst mixed tower as holding the anion exchange resins and the catalyst supports separately (e.g., in a laminate of layers, see line 47 of col. 7 or elements 22 and 49 in FIG. 9b).

Concerning claim 16, Morita et al disclose the catalyst mixed tower (see FIG. 9b) as being a layered bed type holding a catalyst support layer 49 located on an inflow side of the liquid to be processed and an anion exchange resin layer 22 located on an outflow side of the liquid.

As to claim 17, Morita et al disclose the catalyst mixed tower as further including cation exchange resins (see lines 45-47 of col. 7).

With respect to claim 18, Morita et al and Kazuki et al fail to mention a velocity of 10 to 200 hr⁻¹, however, such a modification would have been obvious in order to optimize the degree of purification of the water for a particular application.

Concerning claim 19, Morita et al disclose a direction of the liquid to be processed as being set to downflow (see FIGS 9a and 9b).

With respect to claim 20, Morita et al and Kazuki et al fail to specify the primary pure water as having a resistivity equal to or greater than 10 MΩcm, a dissolved oxygen concentration of 0 to 1000 µg / L, an organic compounds concentration of 0 to 20 µg/L, and a metal concentration of 0 to 1 µg/L, however, such a modification would have been obvious in order to optimize the efficiency of the ultrapure water production plant for a particular application.

Applicant's arguments filed 3-11-10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Morita fails to teach that the anion exchange resin absorbs and removes the decomposition product of the organic compound, however, Morita clearly discloses such a concept (see lines 24-28 of col. 6).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew O Savage/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797

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